

List of Current Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 13 (Cancelled).

14. (New) A method for monitoring a field device connected via a databus with a control unit, comprising the steps of:

requesting at intervals in time, an individual identifier of the field device; and
comparing the requested individual identifier with an identifier stored in the control unit.

15. (New) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein:
the individual identifier is the serial number of the field device.

16. (New) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein:
the individual identifier is a key in the device firmware of the field device.

17. (New) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein:
the individual identifier is a test sum of a memory unit in the field device.

18. (New) The method as claimed in claim 14, further comprising the step of:
storing the requested individual identifier in a database, along with a time stamp.

19. (New) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein:
a storing in the database only occurs, when a change is detected in the requested individual identifier.

20. (New) The method as claimed in claim 14, further comprising the step of:
producing an alarm warning, in the case of a change in the requested individual identifier.

21. (New) The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein:
the alarm or warning is only produced, when the change occurs outside of a specified time period for maintenance.

22. (New) The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein:
the alarm or warning is presented at the control unit.

23. (New) The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein:
the alarm or warning is sent in electronic form (e.g. eMail, SMS, fax).

24. (New) The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein:
the alarms or warnings are retrievable at the control unit.

25. (New) The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein:
the alarms or warnings can be retrieved via a client (e.g. Internet Explorer).

26. (New) The method for monitoring a field device connected via a databus with a control unit, comprising the steps of:

directing a query by the control unit to the field device in intervals of time, the query requires an answer from the field device; and

in case no answer comes from the field device, such fact is stored in a data base along with a corresponding time stamp.